

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 03625 01 OF 02 051634Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 ICA-11 /061 W

-----125871 051910Z /14

R 051615Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4114

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 03625

USEEC AND USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSIES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EEC, SP

SUBJECT: ETUC RELATIONS WITH SPANISH WORKERS'
COMMISSIONS (CC.OO.)

REF: BRUSSELS 6553

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PAGE 02 MADRID 03625 01 OF 02 051634Z

1. DENIAL BY ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY HINTERSCHEID THAT
THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CC.OO. HAS EVER MADE A FORMAL
AFFILIATION REQUEST TO THE ETUC (REFTEL) IS, TO OUR
BEST KNOWLEDGE, ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED. THIS SUBJECT HIT
THE SPANISH PRESS A MONTH AGO FOLLOWING A MARCH 4
BRUSSELS PRESS CONFERENCE BY ONE GERARDO IGLESIAS

(A 30-YEAR OLD MINER AND CC.OO. PROVINCIAL SECGEN FROM ASTURIAS). IGLESIAS WAS QUOTED HERE AS HAVING MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN BRUSSELS: FIRST THEY REJECTED US BECAUSE WE WERE CLANDESTINE, THEN THEY REPROACHED US FOR LACK OF REPRESENTATIVITY...BUT THE CURRENT PLANT ELECTIONS SHOW THAT WE ARE THE PREDOMINANT TRADE UNION IN SPAIN, SO WHY DO THEY TURN US DOWN AND ON THE OTHER HAND ACCEPT THE UGT AND STV...IT WOULD BE NORMAL FOR THEM TO ADMIT US AS FULL-FLEDGED MEMBERS.

2. THE SOCIALIST UGT (TOGETHER WITH THE BASQUE STV, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ETUC SINCE FEBRUARY 1973) WAS QUICK TO COMMENT. NOTING THAT CC.OO. HAD NEVER OFFICIALLY REQUESTED ENTRANCE INTO THE ETUC, IT POINTED OUT THAT THE REASON PERHAPS WAS THAT ETUC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS HAD TO HAVE STATUTES AND DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED OFFICERS. UGT INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS SECRETARY MANUEL GARNACHO FURTHER TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE CC.OO. DELEGATION HEADED BY IGLESIAS HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY ANY OFFICER OF THE ETUC NOR BY THE BELGIAN TRADE UNIONS, ALTHOUGH IT HAD MET WITH A "COMMUNIST SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE FGTB."

3. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBILITY THAT FORMAL CC.OO. AFFILIATION REQUEST MAY BE IN THE WORKS (PARA 5, REFTEL), IT APPARENTLY IS. DURING RECENT MEETING BETWEEN BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 03625 01 OF 02 051634Z

LABATT IN MADRID AND SERAFIN ALIAGA (CC.OO. INTERNAL SECRETARY), LATTER STATED THAT HIS UNION INTENDED TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP FOLLOWING THE JUNE 21-25 FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CC.OO. WHEN ASKED IF HE RECKONED THEY COULD COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE UGT IN THAT CONNECTION, ALIAGA ANSWERED THAT THAT WAS PERHAPS "A BIT TOO PREMATURE." (COMMENT: NEITHER THE UGT NOR THE BASQUE STV CURRENTLY HAS ANY INCLINATION TO SUPPORT A CC.OO. MEMBERSHIP BID.) IT WAS QUITE APPARENT TO THE BRITISH LABATT THAT THE CC.OO. CALCULATED THAT ONCE THEIR ORGANIZATION WAS LEGALLY CONSTITUTED BY MEANS OF THE FIRST CONGRESS, IT WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ETUC TO TURN THEM DOWN -- PARTICULARLY INASMUCH AS THE ITALIANS HAD ALREADY BREACHED THE ANTI-COMMUNIST ETUC BARRIERS.

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4. IT IS OF INTEREST THAT ALIAGA ALSO TOLD THE BRITISH LABATT THAT THE CC.OO. INTENDED TO INVITE "ALL OF THE IMPORTANT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ETUC", INCLUDING NON-COMMUNIST UNIONS, CHRISTIAN-ORIENTED UNIONS, AND COMMUNIST UNIONS, TO ITS CONGRESS.

IN ADDITION TO REPRESENTATION FROM THE WFTU, ALIAGA
THUS HOPED TO HAVE BOTH ICFTU AND WCL MEMBERS AS
INVITED GUESTS. ALIAGA ALSO NOTED THAT THE CC.OO.
INTENDED TO SEND INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS
TO THE MADRID-BASED LABOR ATTACHES (WITHOUT SPECIFYING
WHICH ONES). FINALLY, THE CC.OO. INTERNATIONAL
SECRETARY -- FOLLOWING THE USUAL LINE -- STRESSED THAT

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03625 02 OF 02 051639Z
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 03625

THEY DID NOT REGARD THEMSELVES AS LINKED TO THE
SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) BUT WERE RATHER A UNION
OF "ALL THE WORKERS", AND THAT THEY WERE NOT MEMBERS
OF THE WFTU. (COMMENT: THE CC.OO., ALTHOUGH NOT
OFFICIALLY A MEMBER OF THE WFTU, HAS VERY CLOSE TIES
WITH THE PRAGUE-BASED LABOR ORGANIZATION FROM WHICH

IT HAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED HEAVY FINANCIAL SUPPORT.)

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PAGE 02 MADRID 03625 02 OF 02 051639Z

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